

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 04503 212128Z

67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SPC-03 SAM-01 H-03 PA-04

PRS-01 L-03 USIA-15 RSC-01 DRC-01 ABF-01 INR-10 /096 W

----- 044259

R 212030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1242

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 4503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG, GW

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR RADIO FREE EUROPE AND
RADIO LIBERTY

REF: (A) BONN 3011; (B) STATE 42820

1. THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE SUBJECT OF EUROPEAN
FUNDING WITH STATE SECRETARY FRANK AT A MEETING ON MARCH
20 POINTING OUT THAT THE FUNDING OF THE RADIOS WAS AN OLD
PROBLEM BUT CONTINUED TO BE A VERY URGENT ONE. CONGRES-
SIONAL DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR
WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN. THE CONGRESS HAD MADE A VERY
IMPORTANT ISSUE OUT OF EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION, CONSIDER-
ING THAT THE RADIOS PLAYED A ROLE WHICH IS IN THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 04503 212128Z

OVERALL WESTERN INTEREST. A EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION WOULD

HAVE SUBSTANTIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE IN PERSUADING THE CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE RADIOS' OPERATIONS.

2. FRANK SAID THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEM AND WITH THE U.S. REQUEST FOR EUROPEAN SUPPORT. HE SAW THE MAIN PROBLEM FOR THE FRG IN TERMS OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND POLAND. THE RADIOS HAD "PLAYED A ROLE" IN THE FRG'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOTH OF THOSE COUNTRIES. THE POLES IN PARTICULAR HAD DESCRIBED RFE AS AN OBSTACLE TO THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND WARSAW. THE GERMAN RESPONSE, FRANK NOTED, HAD CONSISTENTLY BEEN THAT THE FRG WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RADIOS. THAT ARGUMENT HAD ALL ALONG BEEN SUBJECT TO THE CRITICISM THAT THE RADIOS, WHETHER A DIRECT FRG RESPONSIBILITY OR NOT, WERE LOCATED ON WEST GERMAN TERRITORY. IF THE FRG PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN THE FUNDING OF THE RADIOS, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO USE THIS ARGUMENT. IT WOULD GIVE THE POLES (AND OTHER EE'S) ANOTHER PRETEXT TO SADDLE THE FRG WITH THE BLAME FOR PREVENTING A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

3. THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT POLISH AND SOVIET COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE RADIOS WERE EXAGGERATED FOR TACTICAL PURPOSES. THE EASTERN EUROPEANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE LIKE THE POLES AND SOVIETS WHO WERE SEEKING SUBSTANTIAL CREDITS, HAD AN INTEREST IN THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AS STRONG OR STRONGER THAN THAT OF THE FRG. THEY WOULD HARDLY LET THIS INTEREST BE IMPAIRED BY MAKING A STRONG ISSUE OUT OF THE RADIOS.

4. COMMENT: FRANK, WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM, AGREED TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE MATTER. HE IS AWARE THAT THE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION, IF IT IS TO HAVE THE DESIRED PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT, WILL HAVE TO BE A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL ONE. HE MENTIONED, IN THIS CONNECTION, THE FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS WHICH THE BRITISH HAVE PROPOSED AS A POSSIBLE FIGURE FOR EXPANDED RESEARCH SUBSCRIPTIONS, NOTING THAT THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE CLEARLY INADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSES WE HAD IN MIND. WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC

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PAGE 03 BONN 04503 212128Z

THAT FRANK'S REVIEW OF THE SITUATION WILL LEAD TO A CHANGE IN THE FRG POSITION. HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO BROADCASTING, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, ECONOMIC TRENDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN04503
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740060-1004
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740327/aaaaayve.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BONN 3011; (B) STATE 42820
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY
TAGS: PFOR, XG, GE, US, RFE, RL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005